

DISTRICT V ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2002
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The District V Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at Auburn Hills Golf Course located at 500 S. 135th St. West. In attendance was (7) District Advisory Board Members, (1) City-Council member, (6) City staff members and (29) citizens.

Members Present

Dave Almes
Andy Johnson
Teresa Schmidt
Amy Garcia
Bob Sorenson
Bob Bulman
Sean Cash
David Dennis
Brendan Groves
Christina Kostelecky
Debbie Scrafford
Bob Martz, Council Member

Members Absent

Margarita Lafarelle-Hunt
Fran Hoggatt
Mo Ediger

Staff

Alex Dean, Police Department
Tim Spencer, Police Department
Bob Wiley, Police Department
Mike Lindebak, Public Works
Matt Jordan, City Manager's Office
Kurt Schroeder, Central Inspection

Guest(s)

See page seven.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council member Bob Martz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. welcomed guests and briefly explained the duties and authority of DAB's.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 4, 2002 were approved.

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Scheduled items.

There were no items scheduled for the public agenda.

2. Off-agenda items

A citizen addressed the DAB about a “rusty bridge” on Ridge Road by commenting that the item was not on the agenda. He also expressed concern that the bridge was an unsafe structure because certain parts of it were damaged. Lindebak addressed the citizen and stated that although the bridge was safe and operable, he’d have someone inspect part of the bridge the citizen claimed was “busted.”

A citizen also addressed the DAB about the crosswalk that was proposed at 119th & 135th St. Council member Martz advised the public that since a certain amount of pedestrian traffic was not occurring on those streets, a justification for the crosswalk could not be made. Martz advised everyone that other options were being addressed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Community Police Report

Officer Spencer explained that the Community Police began a newsletter and wanted to advise the public that if they provided e-mail addresses, they could be added to the list of names receiving this new newsletter. He also introduced a new community police officer, Alex Dean, and explained his tenure with the police department. Officer Spencer also briefly spoke about damage to automobiles in the district and what the public could do to prevent being victimized.

4. Paving petition for University Street, west of Arapaho

Background: Mike Lindebak introduced this item by giving a brief review of the issue and petitions on file. Lindebak said the DAB had two options, which were to either approve or deny the petition. If denied, Lindebak explained how the issue would revert back to the Planning Commission. He also explained that the issue was reviewed by the City’s Development Coordinating Committee (senior staff) and their recommendation was to let the Planning Commission decide the issue, if the DAB felt uncomfortable with making a decision. Lindebak also explained a 15-year (Maple Lane) old petition that would override all others, to allow access.

Martz advised the citizens who owned homes in the area that they should have been advised of the 15-year old petition when they purchased their homes. Numerous citizens expressed their concerns in reference to why a “thru” street should not be built, i.e. maintain child safety because of the increased traffic and if it was built, felt they shouldn’t have to share costs. Martz proposed a solution to the problem that many citizens in the audience concurred with. He believed building a cul-de-sac would be a good compromise because property owners could access their property and it didn’t allow thru access, as well as it would be a cheaper route to take. Lindebak explained the cost to merge the two streets and provide a cul-de-sac would cost approximately \$.10 a square foot instead of \$.17-.19.

Recommendation: DAB five voted unanimously, 6-0, in favor of denying the petition. Additionally, DAB agreed that Council member Martz’s proposal, building a cul-de-sac, would be a viable option.

Staff Presentations

5. Joint Code Enforcement Proposal

Background: Matt Jordan and Kurt Schroeder introduced this item by giving a brief overview and announcing they were interested in receiving comment/feedback about the proposal for the DAB. Jordan said the proposal had two main purposes, which were to increase the number of staff able to enforce code violations and to remove nuisance violations more quickly. Jordan also spoke about the difference between a citation and the abatement process. Jordan explained that currently the City had a 20 percent recovery rate for unoccupied homes and that occupied that occupied homes were higher but not much. He explained that the proposal was also aimed at increasing these recovery rates. Jordan explained the high priority violations, e.g. junk cars, graffiti, and illegal signs in the right-of-way. He also explained the departments involved in the enforcement effort and their goal of reducing the time period to address violation.

The proposal would place more responsibility on the City and less on citizens to clean their property. Schroeder spoke about the benefits of the proposal, e.g. shorter compliance time frames because less court interference which could take 3 months to a year instead of the proposed 2 weeks to 30 days. He believed the proposal was a simpler system for staff and the public. Schroeder believed budget issues and data sharing would improve. Lastly, Schroeder explained the implementation period and how the focus would be on residential and not so much commercial.

DAB asked if the proposal addressed railroad right-of-way, construction, etc.? Schroeder described that the focus would be primarily on residential but City staff already addresses those issues. DAB also discussed current problem properties, such as Hoover & 21st Street, Salvage yards, etc. DAB asked about the appeals process and Schroeder explained the City's policy and advised that the appeals process was distributed to citizens in the literature and abatement process. Many DAB members expressed their gratitude with the proposal.

Recommendation: DAB voted 5-1 in favor of approving the joint code enforcement proposal.

6. Planning Process

This item was deferred until the May 6th, 2002 meeting.

7. Mountain Bike Trail

Background: Leah Hoffman introduced this item by explaining that the proposal submitted by Oz Bicycle Club was for a mountain bike trail in Pawnee Prairie Park, instead of Swanson Park. She explained that the trail would be approximately three feet wide and would run about 15 feet from the equestrian trail. The original proposal would allow mountain bikes on the trail, usually reserved for walking, horse back riding, and other bike riding but the Park Board recommended that the bike club come back with a separate trail proposal. The Oz Club proposed a course that would run parallel with the existing bike path. Hoffman provided maps of the site and gave additional background

information. DAB V asked about what on the property would have to be cleared, city liability, deterioration and cost associated with the project. Hoffman responded that the proposal reduces city liability, no City cost would be associated with the project, that nothing would have to be cleared and that deterioration was a natural process.

Recommendation: DAB V voted unanimously, 6-0, to approve the project.

8. Alternative Correctional Housing

Background: Schroeder introduced this item by giving an extensive overview of the formation and duties of the Alternative Correctional Housing Board. The group formed in 1996 and had 19-20 members aimed at addressing halfway housing issues. The county was an original participant but has since left the board. The board is tasked with the developing and monitoring the licensure of these facilities. Schroeder explained that there were six licensed facilities but none in DAB V. Three of the six halfway houses housed sex offenders but none met the minimum distance separation requirements from residential zoning/uses or businesses primarily serving children. With no ordinance change, sex offenders would not be able to reside in the three facilities. Schroeder discussed six following options: 1.) Construct a facility to house sex offenders; 2.) Grandfather existing facilities currently housing sex offenders; 3.) Grandfather existing facilities with conditions; 4.) Disperse offenders into the community; 5.) Legislative support for sex offender programs and housing; 6.) Explore the possibility of utilizing the Community Corrections Facility.

Schroeder explained that all but one of the options was immediately eliminated because they weren't feasible. The board recommended that option three be approved with the following conditions: 1.) Implementation of an improved security plan; 2.) Facility operators could commit to work with the Wichita Police Department to engage neighbors in community education and dialogue relating to personnel safety; 3.) Policing efforts could increase in neighborhoods with facilities that house sex offenders; 4.) The number of offenders at each location could be limited to average daily number of offenders housed at the facility or a percentage of the facility's total population; 5.) KDOC could disclose the type of offenders; 6.) Neighborhood businesses could be informed of the sex offender population. DAB members asked if there was a compliance problem and Schroeder replied, "no." Kent Sisson spoke about the 3% recidivism rate of offenders who complete the program and about the problem(s) with the private halfway houses and zoning laws.

Recommendation: The vote was split 3-3 on approval of the option, with one DAB member abstaining (late arrival).

9. Expansion of Central from Maize to Tyler

Background: Lindebak introduced this item by stating that it was a continuation of the Central Street expansion project between Maize and Tyler Roads. The project upgrade Central Street to the west from Bishop Carroll to Tyler to Maize Road. He explained the proposal was five-lane roads with turn lanes, etc. Lindebak said the project would increase the size of radius and improve driveways-adding radius curb entrance. He explained that storm/sewer would be improved and that "inlets" would be added. The water line would be improved and new 8-inch water service lines would be added.

Basically, everything would be “torn out” and replaced. He explained that one lane at Tyler intersection, would be closed to construct turn lanes and add sidewalk. Citizens asked how long the project would take and Lindebak estimated that it would be approximately six months. One citizen was concerned about accessing her property because her driveway/garage faced the street, south and the contracted company and Lindebak said they’d contact her later and work out a solution.

Recommendation: DAB voted unanimously, 7-0 to approve the project.

10. Neighborhood Matching Grants Program

Background: Martz briefly explained the City’s matching grant program that allows resident to become involved in projects that improve their neighborhoods. The program funds projects for improving infrastructure or events that encourage citizen involvement. Martz explained the “sweat equity” and matching options and asked DAB members to simply think about the program and later they’d develop a format for the award process. DAB members asked about the deadlines, etc. and Martz reminded them that at some time they’d have to set deadline and other criteria for the grant program. DAB members agreed that this was a great way to reduce costs for citizens who couldn’t afford the total costs. Finally, Martz encouraged DAB members to “get” the word out in the community about the new program.

Recommendation: This was an information only item.

11. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- A. Bulman read a letter from Sharon Fearey expressing her gratitude and appreciation for his service on the Floodway Bride Task Force.
- B. Martz updated the DAB on the status of Westport, studying left turn land on Westport. Martz has asked staff to speed up the process.
- C. DAB members briefly expressed concern over the re-zoning (limited commercial) in the Maple & Ridge Road area.
- D. 119th & Central- DAB members asked when the last traffic count was completed? Expressed that better control of the area was needed. Martz stated that a traffic count was being conducted near the school/church.

12 Adjourn

With no other business, Council Member Martz adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Jackson, Management Intern
City Manager’s Office

Guests

Pat Adamson	700 Crestline
Kent Sisson	Kansas Department of Corrections
Lou Sheets	1249 Firefly
Robert Copland	338 Maple Lane
Shirley Copland	338 Maple Lane
Jeff Lackey	1649 Springfield
H. R. Bomhoff	2804 Bentbay Circle
LurRay A. Watts	715 Fairway
Betty Ladwig	406 No Jaux
Charles Dixon	9310 W. Central
Brett A. Letkowski	245 N. Waco
George Arnold	406 Maple Lane
Bud Hentzen	9619 W. Lynnndale
Dave Benton	8800 W. Central
Don Howell	9518 W. Central
Larry Lynch	9518 W. Central
Gaileen Kelley	701 N. Valleynew
Francisco Werth	626 Redbarn
Marilyn Werth	626 Redbarn
Peter Grunt	426 Maple Lane
Mary Hue	142 S. Forestview
Douglas W. McComb	414 Maple Lane
Katherine A. McComb	414 Maple Lane
William E. Moore	162 So. Forestview
Tom Savage	132 N. Forestview
Richard Knute	437 S. Arapaho
Donna Knute	437 S. Arapaho
George Walta	10630 Carr
Jeff Oligmuelllyn	N/A